

Message Text

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PAGE 01 QUITO 01464 042236Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 SIL-01 EB-08 CIAE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 IGA-02 MMO-01 /035 W
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FM AMEMBASSY QUITO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3419

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JOINT STATE AID MESSAGE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, EC
SUBJECT: AIFLD PROGRAM PROPOSAL FY 77-78

REF: STATE 044430

1. USAID AND EMBASSY ARE AGREED THAT AIFLD CONTINUES TO HAVE A USEFUL ROLE IN ECUADOR AND THAT THE CONTINUATION OF AIFLD IN ECUADOR AFTER AID'S DEPARTURE WOULD FURTHER US FOREIGN POLICY INTERESTS.

2. THE MISSION'S MAJOR CONCERN ABOUT CONTINUATION OF THE PROGRAM CENTERS ON ADEQUATE MONITORING. THE LABOR MOVEMENT IN ECUADOR IS HIGHLY POLITICIZED AND THE AIFLD PROGRAM HAS SENSITIVE POLITICAL OVERTONES. CEOSL, THE AIFLD-ASSISTED DEMOCRATIC LABOR CONFEDERATION, IS DIVIDED INTO TWO BITTERLY OPPOSED CAMPS. THE AIFLD-ASSISTED FACTION IS FREQUENTLY ACCUSED IN PUBLIC OF BEING COMMUNIST OR A PUPPET OF THE AFL-CIO. THE AIFLD-ASSISTED GROUP IS ENGAGING IN JOINT ACTIVITIES WITH BOTH THE SOVIET-LINE COMMUNIST LABOR CONFEDERATION AND THE MARXIST-CHRISTIAN CONFEDERATION AND OFTEN IS PARTY TO JOINT DECLARATIONS OF A DECIDEDLY LEFTIST TONE. THESE JOINT ACTIVITIES ARE COMPOUNDED BY COMMUNIST EFFORTS TO ENLIST

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PAGE 02 QUITO 01464 042236Z

CEOSL IN JOINING A UNIFIED CONFEDERATION THAT WOULD BE MADE UP OF THE THREE EXISTING CONFEDERATIONS. FOR AIFLD TO INVOLVE ITSELF IN THIS DELICATE POLITICAL SITUATION ENTAILS RATHER OBVIOUS RISKS.

3. AS THE DEPARTMENT AND AID ARE AWARE, THE MONITORING OF THE AIFLD PROGRAM IN ECUADOR HAS BEEN SHARED BY THE DIRECTOR

OF USAID AND THE EMBASSY LABOR/POLITICAL OFFICER; USAID HAS HAD THE RESPONSIBILITIES FOR TECHNICAL MONITORING AND PROGRAM COMPLIANCE WHEREAS THE LABOR/POLITICAL OFFICER HAS MAINTAINED A POLITICAL OVERVIEW AND SERVED AS POLITICAL ADVISOR TO THE DIRECTOR OF USAID AND THE AMBASSADOR ON THE AIFLD PROGRAM. WITH THE DEPARTURE OF USAID AS SCHEDULED NEXT SEPTEMBER, IT HAS BEEN ASSUMED THAT ALL MONITORING FUNCTIONS WOULD BE CARRIED OUT BY THE LABOR/POLITICAL OFFICER.

4. THE POSITION OF THE LABOR/POLITICAL OFFICER IS NOW SCHEDULED TO BE ABOLISHED IN SEPTEMBER, THE SAME MONTH THAT USAID IS SCHEDULED TO END ITS PROGRAMMING HERE. THEREFORE, THERE WILL BE NO OFFICER AT POST QUALIFIED TO EXERCISE THE AIFLD MONITORING FUNCTIONS. ALTHOUGH THE TECHNICAL MONITORING MIGHT WELL BE ASSUMED BY ANOTHER OFFICER IN THE EMBASSY, I FEEL THAT IT IS NECESSARY THAT THE PROGRAM HAVE SUBSTANTIVE POLITICAL GUIDANCE FROM AN EXPERIENCED LABOR OFFICER. ALTHOUGH I BELIEVE THAT AIFLD CAN DO VALUABLE WORK HERE, IF THE LABOR/POLITICAL OFFICER'S POSITION IS TERMINATED AS SCHEDULED, I FEAR THAT THE PROGRAM MIGHT FAIL TO MEET THE "ADEQUATELY MONITORED" TEST SET OUT IN REFTEL.

5. WE BELIEVE THAT IT IS DOUBLY IMPORTANT TO HAVE THE PROGRAM PROPERLY MONITORED DURING THE TRANSITION AND DEPARTURE OF USAID. ALSO, CERTAIN RECENT CHANGES IN THE AIFLD-ASSISTED CEOSL WILL REQUIRE RESTRUCTURING OF THE PROGRAM FOR THE NEXT CONTRACT YEAR; A RESTRUCTURING WHOSE PROGRESS THROUGH THE NEXT CONTRACT MUST BE CLOSELY OBSERVED AND ANALYZED. ASSUMING THAT THE DEPARTMENT REVERSES ITS DECISION ON THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 QUITO 01464 042236Z

ABOLITION OF THE LABOR/POLITICAL OFFICER POSITION, THE EMBASSY AND USAID AGREE THAT THE PROGRAM WILL BE PROPERLY MONITORED AND THAT IT SERVES US FOREIGN POLICY OBJECTIVES. BLOOMFIELD

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Expiration:
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Format: TEL
From: QUITO JOINT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770392/aaaaddcm.tel
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